

ate rape — Say no with forcefulness

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By Jeanne Isenberg
Staff Writer



Photo by Dean Saito

From left, Marla Quinn, a date rape survivor, Dr. Charlene Muehlenhard, a Texas A&M assistant professor of psychology, Dr. Kerry Hope, A&M associate director of the Student Counseling

Services, and Lt. Bernard Kapella of the College Station Police Department participated in a panel discussion on date rape in the Memorial Student Center Wednesday night.

said, and this caused her to blame herself afterwards.

Two years ago, Quinn volunteered at the Brazos County Rape Crisis Center and was asked by the center why she wanted to be a volunteer. She said after trying to bury the rape in her subconscious, she finally admitted it had happened. She continues to deal with the rape now, she said, but is still angry with herself for not reporting it.

In California in 1980, she said, laws were different, and date rape victims who received no physical injuries were ignored or treated as the criminals.

Kapella of the CS Police Department said with the help of the Rape Crisis Center, the rape investigators in College Station are trained to deal with the victims in a sensitive manner.

"Many officers don't realize that all rape victims don't act the same," he said. "Some smile, some laugh, some cry. Some don't talk at all. The Crisis Center volunteers sensitize the officers through training and role reversal situations — where the officer becomes the victim and the volunteer is the officer."

Quinn said the Rape Crisis Center volunteers sometimes go along with officers to offer support, and the investigators she's seen have always been sensitive and compassionate.

Hope, associate director of the Student Counseling Services, said a rape victim should immediately seek medical help although shock often may mask physical injury.

Adjusting is difficult, Hope said, and half of date rape victims have not fully recovered up to six years

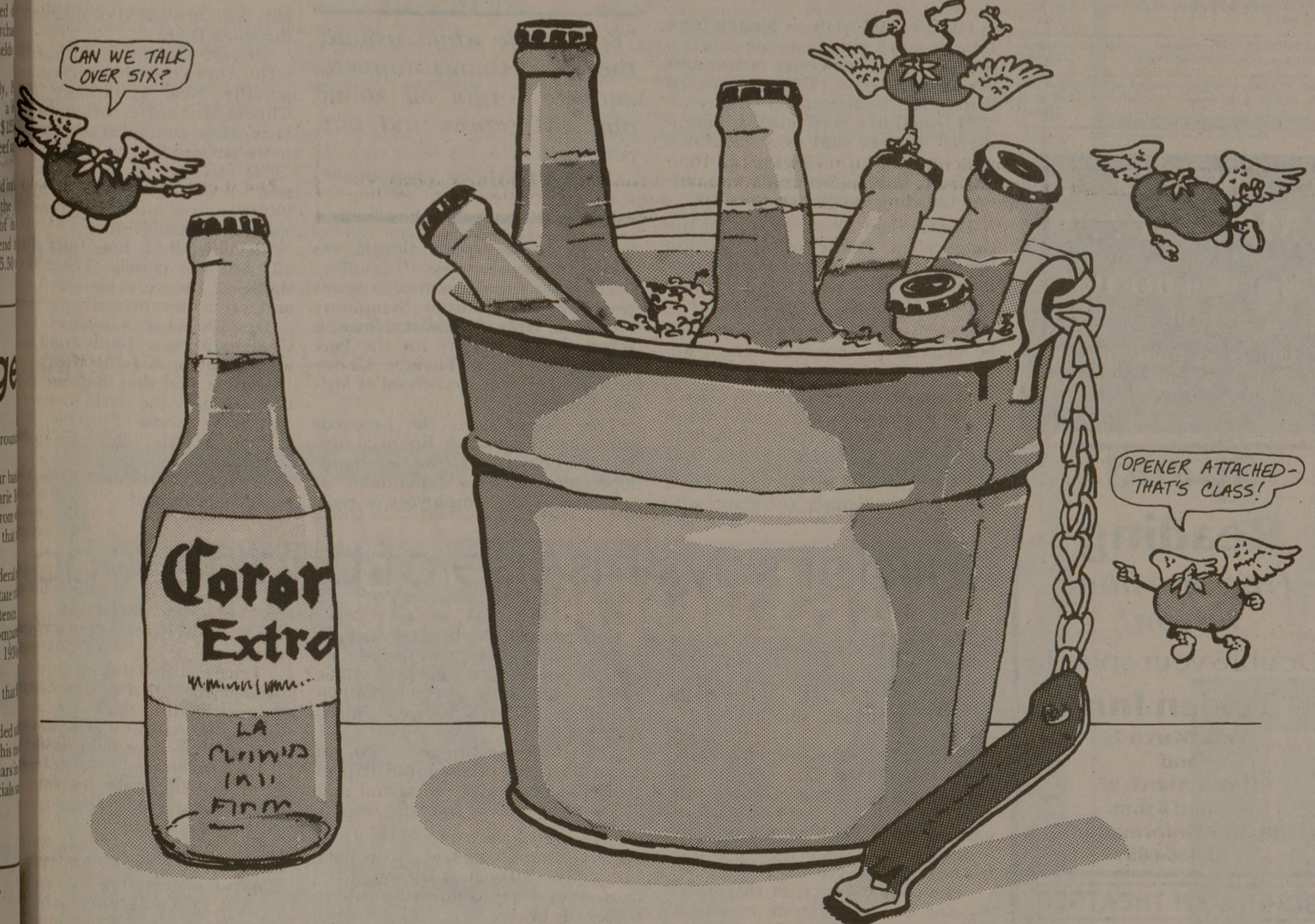
after the rape. But one-third recover within six months, she said.

Date rape can replace trust with fear, guilt and shame, she said, and counseling tries to show victims that they weren't at fault.

"Women have the right to set their own sexual limits," she said, "and a date or a kiss doesn't mean you've agreed to have sex."

"Be forceful when you say no. Act angry and get physical if necessary. In general, the assertive approach is best. Rapists desire power and control, and women should show they won't be conquered easily."

"Still, there are no guarantees. And if it happens, women must do what they can immediately: call the police, and if you decide not to report it, at least there's the option later. But women must remember that it isn't their fault."



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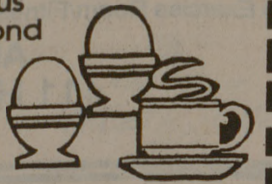
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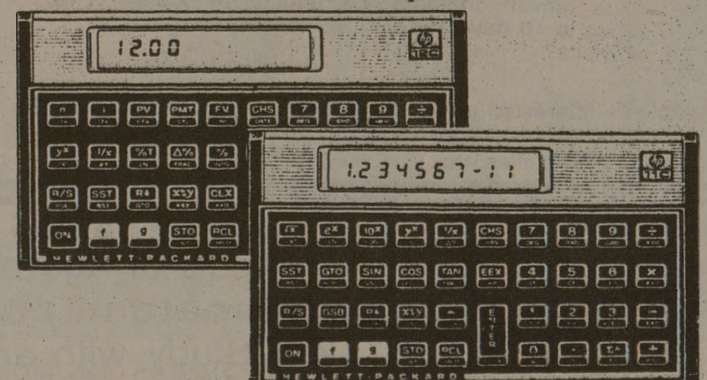
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